

AMENDED PRESS RELEASE

Date: March 26th, 2010

A joint investigation by Detective Rodney Rimstidt of the Rising Sun Police, and Detectives with the Dearborn County Special Crimes Unit over the past three to four weeks has brought to a close the operation of a large drug ring which was operating in Ohio, Dearborn and Switzerland counties.

The investigation resulted in several search warrants, which when served, produced a large quantity of illegally possessed prescription pain-killers, with a street value of approximately \$12,000.00 to \$15,000.00, a significant amount of drug money and the arrest of the local alleged kingpin.

Charges are pending against a Switzerland county man, 30 year old, Charles Smith of the East Enterprise area.

The investigation revealed a wide network of persons involved in the possession, use and sale of the prescription pain killers including Oxycodone, Oxycontin, and methadone as well as other drugs. Investigators have confirmed that the drugs were from an out of state source and that the drugs and the cash for the purchase of the drugs were transported via US 50 through Dearborn County, and into Ohio and Switzerland counties. Investigators believe that sales of the drugs have taken place in all three southeastern Indiana counties.

Detectives were assisted in this investigation by officers with the Ohio County Sheriff's Department, the Switzerland County Sheriff's Department, Rising Sun Police and Dearborn County Sheriff's Department.

"This was a very intense and complicated investigation, requiring a significant investment of manpower and resources. The cooperation between Detective Rimstidt, the Special Crimes Unit and the other involved agencies was key in bringing this investigation to a successful close." Stated Crimes Unit Detective Tom McKay.

Charges are pending in Ohio County against several individuals, more arrests may follow over the next few days or weeks, and more information will be released at a later date.

The fact that a defendant has been charged with a crime is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

Anyone wishing to provide information regarding illegal activity in Dearborn and/or Ohio County is urged to call the Special Crime Unit @ 812-537-3571. You do not have to give your name.

The Dearborn County Special Crimes Unit is funded in part through an Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, and administered by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute. JAG funding allows states and local governments to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime based on their own local needs and conditions.

Also providing funding to the Dearborn County Special Crimes Unit are Citizens for a Drug-Free Ohio County, Ohio County Community Foundation, and the Rising Sun Regional Foundation.